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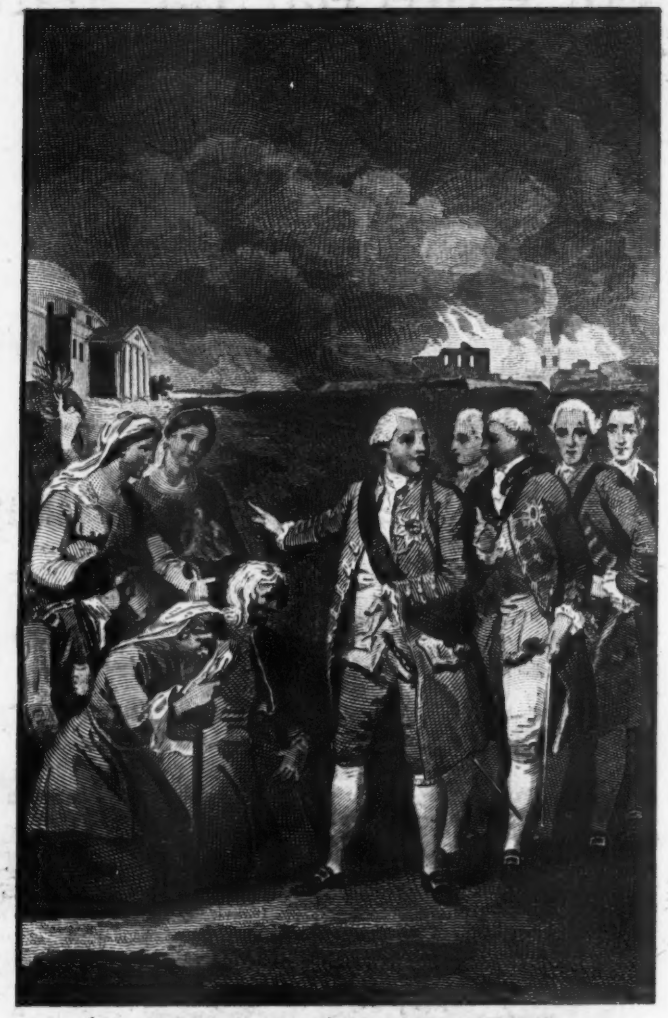

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PREFACE.

IT would be inexcuſable to commence a New Year without the warmeſt acknowledgments to our friends for their increaſing favours. Our invariable wiſh, indeed, has ever been to attain all the valuable ends of a Periodical Publication, not only by rendering our volumes the repoſitory of the paſſing events that deſerve to be perpetuated; but by blending, as much as poſſible, the Agreeable with the Uſeful, and with the cultivated fruits of *Knowledge* that nouriſh and ſuſtain, interſperſing the fragrant flowers that charm with the varieties of intellectual *Pleaſure*.

To deſcant on thoſe circumſtances, which have hitherto diſtinguiſhed THE UNIVERSAL MAGAZINE, would be ſuperfluous to the Readers who have been attached to it for ſuch a length of years; but to point out the line in which we have been more particularly enabled to excel, to the purchaſers who have recently honoured it with their patronage, will be attributed leſs, we hope, to the obtruſion of Vanity, than to the ardour of Zeal and the intentneſs of Exertion.

ON a retroſpect of a few numbers only, we flatter ourſelves it will ſoon appear, that, in the conduct of our Miſcellany, we have not been content with the ſubjects common to our competitors, nor with the dying topics of the day. We have found reſources that have enabled us to lead our Readers into regions that will be ever intereſting to mankind. In Greece, once 'the ſapient Nurſe of finer Arts,' where Libertyand Genius flouriſhed in inimitable ſplendor, Ignorance, Superſtition, and Tyranny now ſtalk, unconſcious of the ſacrilege, over the moſt beautiful monuments of human grandeur. Theſe ſcenes, which in ancient learning, and in their modern ſtate, preſent ſuch different aſpects, have been hitherto imperfectly, and

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even erroneouſly, deſcribed. The accounts, which we have given from time to time, and which we have extracted from the obſervations of ſome learned foreigners, who have lately viſited the Archipelago, can hardly fail to affect the ſentimental Reader, who may feel a religious awe, while he treads as it were on conſecrated ground, and converſes, in their favourite haunts, with the ſages of antiquity.

In our Biographical walk, while we have been ſolicitous to commemorate ſuch of our compatriots as have recently diſtinguiſhed themſelves, we have been cautious not to tire the Reader with uniformity, however brilliant, but to diſplay with conciſeneſs, yet in the moſt conſpicuous lights, the actions of thoſe eminent men of other ages and countries, whoſe virtues may ſtill inſtruct, or whoſe vices may reform. Nor have we been unobſervant of perſons in obſcurer ſtations, whoſe lives may give pleaſure in a more confined degree, from ſome peculiarity of circumſtance or eccentricity of character. In our wiſhes, moreover, to preſent a pleaſing variety, our fair Readers may perceive the moſt reſpectful attention to them, as we propoſe occaſionally to introduce ſome of thoſe excellent women, whoſe virtues do honour to the ſex, and whoſe Works prove the unqueſtionable right of the LADIES to literary emulation and literary fame.

As an illuſtration of the different operations of the preſent war is an object of moment, we beg leave to obſerve, that there is ſcarce a part of the globe, where any important action can happen, which we have not accurately repreſented in a Map. In our laſt *Supplement* we gave a liſt of theſe (and of all the Copper-plates ſince our fifty-firſt Volume) which will enable our new purchaſers to order the Magazine, containing any particular Map or Plan, that may be neceſſary to throw a light on the intelligence of the day.

We cannot conclude without offering our beſt thanks to our kind Correſpondents, and particularly to the Gentlemen who have obligeingly aſſured us of their aſſiſtance in the conduct of *The Improver*, a new paper, which, we doubt not, will appear replete with the moſt ſolid and intereſting inſtruction.

THE